

GUISBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.



NORTH RIDING (GUISBOROUGH)
COMBINED DISTRICTS.

. REPORT .
for the Year 1938
of the Medical Officer of Health,
C. R. GIBSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B.,
D.P.H.

Guisborough :
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1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE GUISBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1938, the contents and arrangement of which are in accordance with the Ministry of Health circular No. 1728.

Summaries of the vital statistics for the year will be found on page 8 and comparison with earlier periods is furnished in the table on page 21. The Registrar-General estimates that the population of the district has increased in the year by six persons. The three main vital rates, birth-rate, death-rate at all ages, and infant mortality are all below the average of the five years, and compare favourably with those for England and Wales:—

Guisborough Urban District. England & Wales.				
		1938.	1934—1938.	1938.
Birth-rate	... ..	16·5	16·6	15·1
Death-rate (uncorrected)		11·1	12·7	—
Death-rate (comparable)		10·5	12·1	11·6
Infant Mortality Rate	...	30	46½	53

Perhaps some excuse is necessary in a report on the health of a community for referring at any length to a decline in the number of births, since any effect of that on health is not at once obvious. It cannot be denied, however, that, if the same decline is general and continuing, it will have an effect ultimately on the existence of the nation, and I would suggest further that health and well-being depend not only on the physical environment—food, clothing, housing, and freedom from disease-producing germs—but also on the less definite environment that affects the mind and feelings. A child brought up among other children is more normal in health than one whose mental, emotional and spiritual outlook is coloured only by association with people comparatively or frankly old. Physical health of a community, if it means mere freedom from bodily disease, is not enough: there must also be vigour, energy, eagerness to do and dare, if the well-being of the community is truly to be conserved.

The local fall in the birth-rate is, of recent years, quite trivial: 16·5 in 1938, compared to an average of 16·6 over 1934-1938 and 16·7 over the previous five years. But at the beginning of the century the average birth-rate in this district was double the present figure: the number of births was about half as many again as now although the population within the boundaries of the district was smaller.

Attention has repeatedly been directed to the gravity of the great fall in the birth-rate but no apparent heed has been paid to the warnings. In the first place the gloomy prophecies of depopulation of this country are dated so far ahead as not to interest us greatly, and they relate to the nation as a whole while the particular concern of our corner of it is not apparent.

Secondly, notwithstanding the Jeremiads, there are still more births than deaths, and, while that is so, it is difficult to believe in a fall of population that has not yet happened and may never do so. And thirdly, supposing it is all true, what can be done about it? How can the easy movement downhill be brought to a stand and converted again into an upward climb?

I would direct your attention to the fact that, owing to the fall in the birth-rate, already operative before the war, but showing a steep, almost sudden, drop after, the make-up of the population, as between the different ages, has already been radically changed. Taking the combined districts as a whole—and the figures for this district do not differ very much—in 1901 the census showed that children under 15 years of age formed 35% of the bulk of the population, and, taking the age of 45 as approaching the end of full vigour in both sexes, persons 45 years old or over constituted 19·4% of the population. The 1931 census in these districts gave 26·6% of the population as under 15 years of age, and 28·8% 45 years old or over. At the beginning of the present century the local population included nearly twice as many children as old people—with apologies for classing all persons 45 years old or over as ‘old.’ Before the century had one-third run its course there were more old people than children. It is eight years now since that census was taken but contributory evidence shows that the change has continued and at no slackened rate. I note that children on the school register in the North Riding numbered 44,734 at the end of 1914, and 36,886 on the 31st March, 1937. Can we look forward to converting our playgrounds for children into resting-places for the aged, or our superfluous schools into houses for the old and infirm?

The second reason I gave for general unconcern over the fall that has occurred in the birth-rate is that, up to now, the births have always outnumbered the deaths, and that therefore the population is still increasing and everything is all right. The annual takings of a business may be greater than the outgoing payments and yet, unfortunately, the business may be bankrupt: it may have undischarged liabilities that no attempt is made to meet, and some of the receipts should properly be assigned to transactions of previous years. Similar considerations may apply to a population, with an income of births, derived from women of child-bearing age whose ranks are no longer being recruited to the same extent and which is increasing its numbers of aged persons. Imagine a community of ants where the average life of the individual ant is exactly one year, and 6,000 ants are born throughout each year: we would conclude, after a little thought, that the population of that ant-heap would tend to be 6,000. Similarly if the average life of each ant were two years, and there were 3,000 born annually, again we would say that the average population would be 6,000. If we extend the fancy to a community where the mean span of life was 60 years, we see that it would need a steady 100 births each year to arrive at and maintain a population of 6,000. Life insurance companies are interested in the duration of life and there has been worked out for them the “expectation of life” or the average duration of life that would follow if the death-rates prevailing in a certain period remain constant: e.g. the expectation of

life (at birth) for a man according to the English Life-Tables of 1910-12 was 51·5 years ; that is, subject to the death-rates current in England for different ages in that period, the average duration of life for a man, from birth to death, would be 51½ years. This figure, the expectation of life, can be derived from the standardised or comparable death-rate with fair accuracy.* The product of this, multiplied by the annual number of births, will give the population that would be finally attained in that community if the yearly number of births and the death-rates remained constant ; it gives, in fact, the “ expectation of population ” just as we reasoned this in the case of the imaginary ant-heaps. Applying this to the local figures for some years back, we arrive at the following results :—

	Expectation of life at birth.	Average annual No. of births.	“ Expectation of population.	Estimated actual population.	Ratio of expected to actual.
1909-13	52·3	208·8	10,920	7,062	1·54
1914-18	50·9	199·4	10,180	6,600	1·54
1919-23	55·7	192·8	10,750	7,104	1·52
1924-28	57·3	130·2	7,450	6,656	1·11
1929-33	58·5	115·0	6,730	6,888	0·98
1934-38	61·3	133·0	8,160	7,987	1·02

The last column in the table shows that from before the war, up to and including the five years after the war, the population of the district was tending to a figure 50% in excess of its size at that date. The stage was set either for a large increase in population or an overflow to other districts. But with the large drop in the yearly number of births by 1924 to 1928 the tendency to increase was only some 10%, and was replaced in the next five years by a trend to shrinkage of population. In 1929-33 the population of the district was not reproducing itself, it was just short of paying its way. The last five years register possibly some improvement but too slight as yet to carry much weight.

What of the future ? One may hope for a still further improvement in the expectation of life, but at a diminishing rate. One cannot prolong life indefinitely and the nearer the average approaches the limit, the harder it is to secure further improvement. Provided then that the yearly number of births remains as it is, the population will show a slight increase. Unfortunately one cannot rely too much on the condition being realised : the decrease that took place, largely about 1923, in the yearly number of children born, is shortly going to cause a shrinkage in the number of women of child-bearing age. If this remnant have each no more children than the mothers of this generation have, then the yearly total of births will again fall rapidly, leading in its turn to a further reduction in the number of possible mothers, and so on.

If any remedy for this downward trend is desirable, what, if any, is available ? The most attractive argument against interference is that the general fall in population will cure unemployment and bring prosperity : to-day, it is said, there are not enough jobs to go round, have fewer young people and everyone will have a job. Most of those who

* “The use of Death-rates as a Measure of Hygienic Conditions,” by John Brownlie.

have studied the question are satisfied that the consequences of a dwindling population would be an increase in unemployment and a decline in social well-being. One would not start a business in a dying neighbourhood and expect to prosper for very long, and, on the other hand, the prospects of financial gain in a rapidly expanding quarter, even if itself not wealthy, are usually reckoned good. The fall in birth-rate has affected nearly all the countries inhabited by white races, and various remedies have been suggested and tried: bonuses for children, loans for marriage, and so on. Germany has gone furthest in governmental attempts to reverse the decline in birth-rate, and of late years her birth-rate has shown the greatest increase from its previous low point. Her own statisticians, however, ascribe only one-third of the increase as possibly resulting from the monetary inducements offered, the larger share resulting from a change in national spirit. It would appear then that in this direction at least there is need of moral re-armament—a steady confidence in the future, with a readiness to give up for it present luxuries. It has been calculated that, if each married woman has three children, then, allowing for the inescapable pruning by death, the population would just remain stationary. If that is so, any healthy woman who limits her family to less than three, is incurring responsibility for the extinction of the race. The old may talk: it is the young on whom the decision rests and especially on the young women.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. GIBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Guisborough,

June 12th, 1939.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

	Borough of Redcar.	Guisborough Urban District.	Loftus Urban District.	Saltburn and Marske-by-the-Sea Urban District.	Skelton & Brotton Urban District.
<i>A. Whole-time Officers.</i>					
Medical Officer of Health			Dr. C. R. Gibson		
Medical Officer to Joint Isolation Hospital ...			Dr. C. R. Gibson		
Sanitary Inspectors ...	Mr. W. Tutin	Mr. R. H. Kilburn*	Mr. E. Hollis*	Mr. T. Young* until April 1938, then Mr. T. Grant*	Mr. R. Barry
Assis't Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. N. Hudson	Mr. F. A. Russell	—	Mr. J. R. Hall	—

*Also Surveyor for the District concerned.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) 18,924.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938: 8,040.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate books: 2,238

Rateable Value: £28,447.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £112.

The main industries of the district are ironstone mining, iron and steel works and agriculture; the improvement in the iron and steel trade has slightly ameliorated unemployment in the district.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of 1938.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live births, legitimate ...	129	68	61	} Birth Rate 16·5.
illegitimate ...	4	3	1	
Still-births ...	8	2	6	: Rate per 1,000 total births, 57.
Deaths ...	89	43	46	: Death-rate: 11·1.

Deaths in consequence of child-birth:

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
(a) from sepsis ...	0	0
(b) from other causes ...	1	7
(c) total ...	1	7

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants, per 1,000 live births ...	30
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	31
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages) ...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0
„ „ Pneumonia (all ages) ...	2
„ „ Tuberculosis (all ages) ...	5
„ „ Cancer (all ages) ...	10
„ „ Heart disease (all ages) ...	18

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There have been no developments nor changes during the year in the services provided in the Area.

The Ambulance belonging to the B.R.C.S. (Guisborough Detachment), to the expenses of which the Council contribute £50 per annum, and which was used on 43 occasions during the year, provides adequate facilities for the normal needs of the district in that direction.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water: I understand that the Guisborough Water Company, which supplies Guisborough itself, with surrounding farms and the village of Dunsdale, have been connecting during the year an additional source of supply, a spring under Highcliff, the water from which is to be filtered through a pressure filter. The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples of water from a tap at No. 2, Fountain Street, Guisborough, were taken on April 25th and August 16th and submitted to the North Riding Laboratory: they reported the bacterial count (on agar in 3 days at 22°C.) to be 430 in the earlier sample and 370 in the later; *b. coli* and streptococci were not found in 100 c.c. on either occasion, nor *b. enteritidis sporogenes* in 250 c.c., and the analysts' opinion in each case was "a good water; safe in this condition." Copies of the reports were furnished to the Water Company from whom also copies of reports on seven samples taken by them at different periods were obtained.

Summaries of these reports (from the Counties Public Health Laboratories) are:—

Sample taken.	Date.	Colonies on agar at 20° C. in 3 days.	B. Coli.	B. Enteritidis Sporogenes.	Opinion.
Tap below Filters	April 19th	5	Absent in 100 c.c.	Absent in 100 c.c.	Pure and wholesome
Tap below Service Reservoir	April 19th	1	„	„	„
Tap below Filters	July 5th	120	„	„	„
Tap below Service Reservoir	July 5th	15	„	„	„
Tap below Filters	Sept. 6th	140	Present in 50 c.c. Absent in 20 c.c.	Absent in 100 c.c.	—
Tap below Service Reservoir	Sept. 6th	5	Absent in 100 c.c.	Absent in 100 c.c.	—
Tap below Service Reservoir	Nov. 3rd	3	„	„	Pure and wholesome

The attention of the Water Company was drawn by the Council to the fact that, notwithstanding the Statutory obligation of the Company to treat the water for lead solvency it had been reported to the Council in 1937 that the water had a considerable solvent action on lead. The Company replied that they believed the water at present

had no solvent action on lead and that they would submit samples from time to time for report as to action on lead. I am not aware of any subsequent reports having been received from the Company as to the action of the water on lead.

For the Kirkleatham Estate a sample of water was submitted for analysis, from a spring above Yearby which if suitable might have been used as a gravitation supply for Yearby. The report, on September 10th, stated that the bacterial count was 9,580, *b. coli* was present in 10 c.c., and streptococci in 40 c.c., and that the water shewed evidence of pollution and was unsafe for use. The water therefore was not used.

Drainage and Sewerage: There have been no developments during the year.

Rivers and Streams: A complaint was received at the end of May that trout had been poisoned in the Howe Beck. The circumstances were that after several weeks drought, leading to an unusually low condition of the beck, there had been a sudden and very heavy thunder-shower which, it was alleged, through the action of the storm-water overflows at the Guisborough Sewage Disposal Plant, had washed through the drains and sewers directly into the beck. The Council asked Messrs. D. Balfour & Sons, Engineers to the Sewage Disposal Works, to report on their functioning, and after their representative had made an inspection they replied that the effluent was clear and sparkling and the works were operating satisfactorily.

Closet Accommodation: The Sanitary Inspector reports that 137 pail-closets were converted to water-carriage in 1938, all in Guisborough. This leaves at the end of 1938 579 pail-closets in Guisborough with approximately 380 pail-closets and 40 fixed privies in the outlying villages.

Public Cleansing: No change was made in this during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area will be found summarised in Table 5 on page 17. In more detail the nuisances dealt with were:—

	Number.	Removed by Dec. 31st, 1938.
Defective Sanitary Conveniences ...	132	125
Defective Premises ...	82	75
Defective Drainage ...	47	47
Verminous Premises ...	6	6
Dirty Premises ...	4	4
Offensive Accumulations ...	7	7
Insufficient Water-supply ...	4	3
	<hr/> 282	<hr/> 267

Shops and Offices: Two new shops were opened in the district and one closed, making a total of 47 premises coming under the Shops Act 1934. Two informal notices for inadequate sanitary conveniences were served and were complied with.

Camping Sites: There are none in the district and no licenses were issued or applied for.

Swimming Baths and Pools: None in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs: Six houses—none of them Council houses—were found to be infested with bed bugs. Three were reported for the first time and were treated by the Local Authority, by spraying with insecticide and then fumigating, after stripping wallpaper, lifting skirting and architraves, and treating cracks etc., with a blow-lamp. No further complaints were received. The three other houses, in one block, where previous treatment had been unsuccessful, were treated with Hydrogen Cyanide by the London Fumigation Company, and no further complaints were received.

All tenants moving into Council houses are visited prior to removal. If necessary sulphur fumigation is carried out, after spraying, and in certain cases badly infested bedding or upholstered furniture have been destroyed. After removal, the tenant, now in a Council house, is kept under supervision and advised by the Sanitary Inspector on how to prevent re-infestation.

Schools: Information as to cases, or suspected cases, of infectious disease in school-children is freely passed between the Head Teachers and the Sanitary Department. Early intimation of absences from school were particularly useful in dealing with an outbreak of diphtheria in Guisborough.

Housing.

The results of inspections etc., are summarised in Table 7 on page 19.

The number of overcrowded houses, 19, is small and shows some slight diminution, notwithstanding the occurrence of nine new cases during the year, mostly due to normal growth in family age or size. Ten of the overcrowded houses are in Wilton parish: the proposal that the Council erect six houses at Lazenby to relieve this overcrowding has not yet come to fruition.

A representation was made that one house in Belmangate, Guisborough, was unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense. The Council accepted the offer of the landlord to close it voluntarily, which has been done.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply: Dairies and Cowsheds are inspected periodically: 162 informal notices were served, 157 for limewashing, 1 for repair, and 4 others: the one for repair was outstanding at the end of the year, the others being complied with.

Tabular Summary of Milk Examinations.

District.	No. of Registered Cowkeepers and Dairies.	No. of Samples submitted.	Bacterial count per c.c.				Coliform bacilli in 1/100 c.c.	
			under 10,000.	10,000— 30,000.	30,000— 100,000.	over 100,000.	Absent.	Present.
Redcar Borough ...		21	1	6	10	4	14	7
Guisborough U.D. ...	79	19	—	2	15	2	9	10
Loftus U.D. ...	63	6	—	3	3	—	5	1
Saltburn & Marske U.D.		23	—	8	11	4	12	11
Skelton & Brotton U.D.		33	1	6	23	3	24	9

II.—Methylene Blue Tests.

District.	No. of Samples submitted.	Methylene Blue Tests.		Coliform bacilli in 1/100 c.c.	
		Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Absent.	Present.
Guisborough U.D.	4	1	3	1	3
Skelton & Brotton U.D.	9	4	5	4	5

Meat and other foods: Slaughterhouses are inspected regularly. The following table gives particulars of inspection of carcasses: no legal action was necessary as the unsound meat was surrendered and not exposed for sale.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

		Cattle, excluding Cows.			Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
		Cows.	Calves.			
Number killed	...	528	4	27	1289	1281
Number inspected	...	402	4	14	1101	1113
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned		—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned		—	—	—	2	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	—	—	—	0·2	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned		1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned		4	1	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis		1·25	25	—	—	—

Adulteration, etc.: No action taken by the Council.

Shell-fish (Molluscan): No shell-fish beds in the district and no shell-fish sold.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Scarlet fever has shown practically the same prevalence as in the previous year, 2·7 cases per thousand of population, as against 2·9. Seven cases occurred in the month of May and the remainder were spread over the year. Nearly all occurred in Guisborough itself and were of mild type.

Diphtheria reappeared after a virtual absence since 1935. It was introduced by a ward-maid from a fever hospital of a neighbouring district, who contracted the disease and infected five other members of her family in Guisborough. Six weeks after the discharge of the last of these from the Joint Isolation Hospital a cluster of cases was discovered, all contacts in day school or Sunday school of one of the original cases who was found to be a carrier with infective discharges from the nose and ear: within a few

days nine cases were removed to isolation hospital, as well as the carrier. Besides this outbreak there were four cases from one house in Wilton, the origin of which was uncertain, and four isolated cases, one a probationer nurse at the Joint Fever Hospital who contracted the disease before immunisation, and one a bacteriologically negative case. There was one death from the disease. The importance of a new drive for the immunisation of children under the age of ten years was brought before the Council, who accepted the recommendation and arrangements were made to have this done early in the current year.

In September the occurrence of cases of infantile paralysis (acute poliomyelitis) widespread throughout the country was reported in the press, and the confirmation of two cases in one house in the adjoining Saltburn & Marske Urban District led me to circularize all medical practitioners in the area asking to be informed of suspicious cases. Three cases were reported in Guisborough: one on October 7th, and other two on November 10th and 11th. They were removed to the Isolation Hospital and after a few days transferred, under arrangement with the County Medical Officer, to the Kirby-moorside Hospital for Crippled Children. One case was slight, with evanescent paralysis, the other two more severe. The slight case has now completely recovered. Besides these and the two in the Marske area already referred to, two occurred in the Skelton & Brotton Urban District and one in the borough of Redcar. The last case was notified on December 12th. In all there were eight cases in the Combined Districts, six boys, aged respectively $1\frac{1}{2}$, 3, 3, 4, 6 and $8\frac{1}{2}$, and two girls, aged 10 and 12: one case ended fatally. With the exception of the two cases in one house at Marske, where the onset was almost simultaneous, no contact between the cases was discovered.

The commoner non-notifiable infectious diseases—measles, etc.—were almost absent throughout the year.

The number of patients admitted to the Joint Isolation Hospital from this and other districts is given in the following table for the twelve months ended March 31st, 1939, the figures in brackets being the admissions in the previous twelve months.

Joint Isolation Hospital.

Patients admitted April 1st, 1938, to March 31st, 1939.

	Redcar Borough.	Guisborough U.D.	Loftus U.D.	Saltburn & Marske U.D.	Skelton & Brotton U.D.	Other Districts.	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	72 (73)	12 (22)	13 (57)	11 (25)	20 (50)	—	128 (227)
Diphtheria ...	37 (8)	19 (2)	6 (11)	5 (1)	6 (10)	—	73 (32)
Enteric Fever ...	— (2)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (2)	—	1 (4)
Puerperal Fever...	— (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)	1 (—)	—	1 (3)
Poliomyelitis ...	1	3	—	—	2	—	6 (0)
Cerebro-spinal Fever—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1 (0)
	110 (85)	34 (24)	20 (68)	16 (27)	29 (62)	1	210 (266)

Two deaths, in both cases from diphtheria, occurred in the hospital during the above period.

Eight new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year and there were four deaths ; these figures are slightly below the average of the previous five years but are a large increase on the figures for 1937, viz. three and two respectively.

No action was taken under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936; no tuberculous person employed in the milk trade was discovered, and no action was required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

APPENDIX.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1938.

	All Ages	Under 1	1 year	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total deaths
Smallpox	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	22	—	—	2	2	2	8	3	3	—	1	1	—	17	—
Diphtheria	23	—	—	1	1	—	4	14	3	—	—	—	—	22	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	3	—	2
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—

4. TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 years	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
15—19 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 years	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—44 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—54 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Ages	2	5	1	—	—	3	—	1

All of the fatal cases previously notified.

5. ABSTRACT OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

	Number dealt with.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Result.	Remarks.
Nuisances ...	282	282	6	All abated, except 15.	—
Slaughterhouses ...	7	—	0	—	—
Dairies and Cowsheds ...	79	157 to limewash, 1 for repairs, 4 others	—	One for repairs outstanding.	—
			—	Compliance	—
Bakehouses ...	9	—	0	—	—
Foctories ...	53	4	0	2 outstanding	—
Common Lodging House ...	1	—	0	—	—
Offensive Trades ...	6	—	0	—	6 fried fish shops, 1 gut-scraping business.
Music Halls, Cinemas, etc.	1	0	0	—	—
Shops ...	47	2	—	Compliance	—
Premises disinfected ...	40	—	—	—	—

6. LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS.

	Borough of Redcar.	Guiseborough Urban District.	Loftus Urban District.	Saltburn and Marske-by-Sea Urban District.	Skelton and Brotton Urban District.	Total.
Sputa examined for Tubercle bacilli ...	47	24	15	11	19	116
Sputa found positive ...	9	5	3	—	4	21
Swabs from Diphtheria suspects examined ...	89	51	32	12	30	214
Swabs from Diphtheria suspects found positive	34	25	12	3	13	87
Swabs from Diphtheria convalescents examined	110	52	39	12	58	271
Swabs from Diphtheria contacts examined ...	13	21	6	7	12	59
Blood examined for Enteric group (Widal Test)	2	—	2	—	1	5
Faeces, for Enteric group ...	2	—	2	—	3	7
Other examinations ...	1	—	—	2	2	5
Diphtheria Antitoxin issued by Local Authority	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

7. HOUSING STATISTICS.

New Houses erected in 1938:

(a) By the Urban District Council	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	29
Houses reconstructed in 1938	...	...	...	...	2

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	347
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	1290
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	65
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	532
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	54

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	12
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	3
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	216
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	207
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	2

D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding :*

(a)	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	19
	(2)	Number of families in them	... ..	19
	(3)	Number of persons in them	... ..	101
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	9
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	12
	(2)	Number of persons concerned	... ..	73
(d)		Number of dwelling-houses again overcrowded after being dealt with	...	Nil

8. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Period.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths at Ages.		Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis.	Yearly Birth-rate.	Yearly Death-rate.	Infant Mortality Rate (Infant deaths per thousand births.
				Under 1 year.	1-4 years.				
1884—1888	6,100	1100	552	161	88	—	36.1	17.1	146
1889—1893	5,623	849	410	94	56	—	30.2	14.6	108
1894—1898	5,630	910	413	98	44	—	32.4	14.7	108
1899—1903	5,645	932	468	132	50	—	33.0	16.6	142
1904—1908	6,300	1026	509	132	69	42	32.6	16.2	129
1909—1913	7,062	1044	542	128	56	58	29.6	15.4	122½
1914—1918	6,600	997	548	106	—	40	30.2	16.6	106
1919—1923	7,104	964	495	94	30	30	27.1	13.9	97½
1924—1928	6,656	651	440	53	31	33	19.6	13.2	81½
1929—1933	6,888	575	486	36	21	23	16.7	14.1	62½
1934—1938	7,987	665	506	31	17	28	16.6	12.7	46½
1938	8,040	133	89	4	1	5	16.5	11.1	30

